

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ray County Poor Farm; Ray County Poor House

AND/OR COMMON

Ray County Historical Society and Museum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

West Royale Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

__ VICINITY OF

#6 Hon. Tom Coleman

STATE

Missouri

CODE
64085

COUNTY
Ray

CODE
177

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ray County Court

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri

64085

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ray County Court House, Office of Assessor

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Missouri

64085

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Missouri State Historic Survey

DATE

1979

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri

STATE

65102

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ray County Poor House, is located on West Royale Street, Richmond, Missouri. The two story brick structure has a Y - shape plan. The building faces north and is set back from the road approximately 600 feet. The building is approached by a gravel drive on the east edge of the property, forming a circle drive in front of the structure.

Over-all dimensions

The building contains approximately 14,400 square feet of space. The center wing is 47 feet deep and 11 feet wide. The side wings are approximately 40 feet deep and 35 feet wide.

Construction materials and colors

The building is constructed of red brick, laid in common bond. Stone is used for window lintels and sills. Wood, painted white, is used for the window trim, porch, and verandas. The basement level is raised and the foundation is of poured concrete. Most of the windows are double hung sash windows.

Basement

A full basement runs under the building.

North (main) facade

The north facade is three bays in width, with a projecting center bay. A porch of approximately 300 square feet, extends across the center bay and half way across each of the side bays. The porch is approached by a flight of twelve concrete steps. The main entrance is protected by this porch. The entrance doors, of aluminum, with transoms, are set in a slight recess. The hip roof of the porch is supported by wood piers. An iron railing runs between the piers. The porch floor is of concrete. Wood lattice work hides the crawl space beneath the porch. The second floor of the center bay features paired one-over-one light, rectangular windows with stone lintels and sills. A projecting eave connects this area to the side bays of the main facade. This central portion of the main facade is capped with a gable roofed dormer. The dormer contains two small paired rectangular windows, with louvers in the upper sash and the bottom sash divided by vertical mullions. The side bays of the north facade contain single rectangular windows on both the first and second floor levels. These windows, symmetrically placed in each bay, are one-over-one lights, with stone sills and lintels. A square window is located in the basement level of each of the side bays. The hip roof of this facade features deep eaves, supported by projecting roof rafters. Two wings angle off this central block of the building (north facade), running southeast and southwest.

Southeast wing

The front facade of this wing (facing northeast), features a veranda on both the first and second floor levels, that is approximately six feet deep. The shed roof

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Boan, Fern. A History of Poor Relief Legislation and Administration in Missouri. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1941.
2. "Carried by Bare Majority." Richmond Conservator, 11 March 1909, p. 1.
3. "County Court Proeedings." Richmond Conservator, 12 August 1909, p. 8. continued:

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Richmond

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 414700 4347300
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

RICHMOND WILSON ADDITION, W 1/2 LOT 2 AND ALL LOTS 3,4,5,6,7 and 8 BLOCK 14
 RICHMOND SUBDIVISION E 1/2 NE 1/4 AND W 1/2 NE 1/4 36-52-28 WEST END "C" LOT 2
 AND "C" LOT 3

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Sherry Piland

ORGANIZATION

Architectural Historian

DATE

2-16-79

STREET & NUMBER

4346 Charlotte

TELEPHONE

(816) 753-5746

CITY OR TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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RAY COUNTY POOR FARM

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of the veranda is supported by wood piers, with an iron railing running between the piers. The veranda is approached, on the south, by a single run of wood steps. The south portion of this wing is set forward approximately four feet. An entrance door is located on the third bay from the south at each floor level. A flight of concrete steps also leads to a door at the basement level. The windows on the first and second floors have stone lintels and sills. The double hung sash windows are both four-over-four light and two-over-two light with vertical mullions. The basement windows are square.

Southwest wing

This wing is similar to the southeast wing, except the open verandas have been enclosed with wood siding. A flight of wood steps leads to a door on the first floor level on the south, while concrete steps lead to a basement level entrance. Six symmetrically placed storm windows are located on the second floor level. Grouped storm windows are also utilized on the first floor level. Connected to the end of this facade is an earthen-covered cellar, with low stone walls. The entrance to this cellar is from the basement interior.

Rear facade

The southeast and southwest wings of the building form a court-yard area in the rear (south) of the building. Here, the windows are rectangular two-over-two light, with vertical mullions, and are set within flush brick voussoirs. Approximately midway along each wing are wood steps leading to wood porches on the elevated first floor level. Doors lead from these porches into the building. Steps also lead down to basement entrances, below grade. In the center portion of this facade, on the first floor level, is a segmented window. This was originally a door with side lights, but the door area has been replaced with a window and the steps leading to the door removed. Above, on the second floor, are paired rectangular windows with running stone sills, set within an encompassing voussoir. A concrete walk leads across the court yard, connecting the entrances on each wing. A concrete walk also leads back to a small frame outbuilding located behind this facade.

Roofs

Hip roofs are used for the main portions of the building. A shed roof is used for the veranda on the southeast wing. All roofs are covered with asbestos shingles.

Chimneys

A brick chimney is located at the south end of both the southwest and southeast wings.

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Outbuildings

A small frame outbuilding, originally a smokehouse, is located at the rear of the structure. The vertical wood siding is painted red. The outbuilding has a gable roof.

Alterations

The building has been spared major changes. As previously noted, an entrance door in the rear has been enclosed, as have the verandas on the southwest wing. Most changes have occurred on the interior, where the original 54 room plan has been altered to accommodate its current use as a museum.

Condition

The building is in good condition and is well maintained.

Site

The building is surrounded by vacant ground. A gravel circle drive is located in front. To the east are the Ray County Fair grounds.

Present Status

The building is leased to the Ray County Historical Society and Museum, Inc. by the County Court. It is open to the public as a museum, with rooms available for various civic group meetings. The building's use as a poor home continued until around 1971, when a new, privately owned, nursing home facility was opened.

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stockade at that institution in which to keep these patients."⁶ It was thought the patients could be cared for there just as well and the cost of the stockade would be small in comparison to the maintenance each year at the state hospital.⁷

In February of 1909 a petition was presented to the County Court, signed by more than 100 qualified voters and taxpayers of Ray County, asking for a special election to vote bonds for purchase of land and erection of a new county home. It was recognized that as the home was then equipped and conducted, it was a county disgrace. Grand juries had visited the poorhouse for several years, reporting its inadequacies. The institution had also "...been referred to in scathing terms by public lecturers, who have declared it to be the most miserable institution of the kind they have ever visited and a disgrace to a big, wealthy county such as ours."⁸

A week later the Ray County Grand Jury that had been assigned to investigate county buildings made their report. Pulling no punches, the report was issued at a time to influence the upcoming election.

The male and female inmates are allowed to associate together, a condition that should not be allowed to exist, considering the fact that practically all the female inmates are either feeble minded or insane. Under the existing circumstances, financial and otherwise, the county court is almost powerless to greatly better the condition of the inmates without making extensive repairs, and this, in our opinion, would be equivalent to throwing money in the fire...The Building proper is in an almost collapsible condition...The wood work of the exterior is almost entirely rotten; the cellar is damp and mouldy; the plastering on the walls and ceilings is almost gone and in places only the lathes form the partitions. Each room is furnished with a small, cheap stove, and the inmates are supposed to look after their own fires.

It is almost inconceivable that the building has not burned long since. And when we know that the doors are locked on the outside at night and the superintendent stays in a building entirely detached, in case of fire the inmates would have little, if any, chance of escape...

The vermin have also almost taken possession of some parts, and in fact exist through all the building. What is known as the

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Stockade is a very old, cheap frame, apart from the main building. Conditions are horrible in this building. Although our visit was made in the middle of winter, the stench in some of the rooms was overpowering, yet the unfortunates of our county are compelled to exist under these pitiful conditions. The walls, ceiling, floors, bedding, cots, and inmates, in fact everything in these dens are filthy beyond words to express.⁹

The local Women's Christian Temperance Union had attempted to improve conditions at the facility, procuring for it, through the court, a new superintendent; providing clothing, bedding, and literature; serving dinners on holidays; and providing occasional religious services.¹⁰

The Richmond Conservator strongly supported the election to issue \$25,000 in bonds to construct a new facility. The proposal was to pay off the indebtedness in two years by a ten cent levy the first year and a fifteen cent levy the second year. "The amount of additional tax which this will impose upon the taxpayers of Ray County will be so small that none can afford to vote against the proposal on that account. The needs of a new County poor house are apparent and for humanity's sake, if nothing else, the proposition should carry by an overwhelming majority."¹¹ The Conservator had previously noted that most of the farmers in the area housed their stock in better facilities than those of the institution.¹²

The election was held March 6, 1909, but the results were in dispute. Due to obvious need for a new facility, little campaigning was done on the proposition. The first election reports showed the proposition carrying by a narrow margin of 59 votes. However, the judges and clerks of the El Mira precinct alleged that the results from their precinct were incorrectly certified.¹³

The decision of the court was that since they had already certified the results of the election, they would not reverse their decision and would show that the proposition carried. Eventually, the legal problems over the election results were settled and a committee was selected to choose a site for the new facility. The committee decided to purchase a 23 acre tract of land lying at the southwestern limits of Richmond, Missouri, for a price of \$150 per acre, a total price of \$3,450.¹⁴

Several architects submitted plans for the new building, including Charles Paulson of Richmond, R. G. Kirsch and Co. of St. Louis, W. L. Garver of Chillicothe, and Rudolf Markgraf of Kansas City.¹⁵ After spending two days studying the submitted plans, the County Court selected the design of William Garver, noting that although all the plans were considered good, his came nearer to meeting the requirements of the county. Garver was paid almost \$400 for his winning design and was also hired to superintend the construction. Garver indicated there would be no difficulty in completing the structure within four months.¹⁶

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The Court then requested bids on the construction of the facility. Woodson Alnutt of Richmond was the low bidder at \$16,148. In August, the expectations were that the building would be completed and ready for occupancy by the middle of December.¹⁷ These expectations proved to be overly optimistic. By March, 1910 Alnutt and his assistants were pushing to finish the job. The residents were moved into the home on May 20, 1910, nine months after construction began.¹⁸

At a salary of \$75 a month, the county then hired Sexus T. Simms as superintendent of the new home for the ensuing year. His duties included having entire charge of the home, superintending the cooking, taking care of the grounds and orchard, cultivating five acres of the ground in a truck patch and garden, and taking care of the milk cows.¹⁹

In its over-all design the Ray County Poor Farm was similar to other institutions in the state. A Y-shaped proposed infirmary had been designed by architect H.H. Hohenschild of Rolla and the Monroe County Home, dating around 1904, is almost identical in plan to the Ray County facility.²⁰ The home also fulfilled the recommended requirements for such a facility in its day. Among those recommendations were that brick or stone be used as a building material; that the height not be over two stories; that a separate wing provide for separation of the sexes; that a central building be provided for administration; that porches be provided for abundant sunlight and fresh air; and that a country location be selected so much of the food supply could be self produced.²¹

Marshall Woodson Alnutt

The contractor of the Ray County Poor Farm was Woodson Alnutt, a prominent Richmond, Missouri builder. Alnutt was born in Clinton County in 1862. He began his contracting and building business in Excelsior Springs, relocating in Richmond around 1890. While in Excelsior Springs he had assisted in building the Elms Hotel. Among his works in Richmond were the Exchange Bank Building, the Newton Hughes residence, and the Christian Church.²²

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Ray County Poor Farm is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture" and "Society."

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FOOTNOTES

1. Alexander Johnson, The Almshouse - Construction and Management (New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1911), p. 7.
2. William Cross and Charlotte Forrester, County Almshouses and Jails of Missouri (n.p., Missouri State Nurses Association, n.d.), p.3.
3. Fern Boan, A History of Poor Relief Legislation and Administration in Missouri (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1941), p. 62.
4. Charles Ellwood, A Bulletin on Condition of County Almshouses in Missouri (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1904), pp. 4, 8, and 67.
5. Ibid., p. 9.
6. "Will Save the County Money," Richmond Conservator, 18 June 1903, p. 1.
7. "Local Matters," Richmond Conservator, 7 April 1910, p. 1.
8. "Special Election on March 6th," Richmond Conservator, 11 February 1909, p. 1.
9. "The Grand Jury's Report," Richmond Conservator, 18 February 1909, p. 1.
10. "W. C. T. U.," Richmond Conservator, 6 May 1909, p. 8.
11. "Poor House Election Saturday," Richmond Conservator, 4 March 1909, p. 1;
"The County Court Enjoined," Richmond Conservator, 22 April 1909, p. 1.
12. Richmond Conservator, 25 February 1909, p. 3.
13. "The County Court Enjoined," Richmond Conservator, 22 April 1909, p. 1;
"Carried by Bare Majority," Richmond Conservator, 11 March 1909, p. 1.
14. "Getting Ready to Build," Richmond Conservator, 15 April 1909, p. 7;
"Selected Poor House Site," Richmond Conservator, 29 April 1909, p. 1.
15. Richmond Conservator, 10 June 1909, p. 8.

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16. "The Garver Plans Accepted," Richmond Conservator, 17 June 1909, p. 1;
"County Court Proceedings," Richmond Conservator, 12 August 1909, p. 8.
17. "Notice to Contractors," Richmond Conservator, 22 July 1909, p. 7; "Poor
House Contract Let," Richmond Conservator, 12 August 1909, p. 1.
18. "Local Matters," Richmond Conservator, 24 March 1910, p. 1; "Occupying New
Home," Richmond Conservator, 26 May 1910, p. 1.
19. "Notice for Superintendent for New County Poor Home and Farm," Richmond
Conservator, 24 March 1910, p. 7; "Court Appoints Superintendent,"
Richmond Conservator, 14 April 1910, p. 1.
20. Fourth Biennial Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections
(Jefferson City: Tribune Printing Co., 1905), pp. 61 and 67; Cross,
County Almshouses, p. 8.
21. Johnson, The Almshouse, pp. 7-36.
22. "M. W. Alnutt Contractor Here Many Years Dies," Richmond Conservator,
9 March 1933, p. 1.

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4. "Court Appoints Superintendent." Richmond Conservator, 14 April 1910, p. 1.
5. Cross, William and Forrester, Charlotte. County Almshouses and Jails of Missouri. n.p.: Missouri State Nurses Association, n.d.
6. Ellwood, Charles. A Bulletin on Condition of County Almshouses in Missouri. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1904.
7. Fourth Biennial Report of the State Board of Charities and Corrections. Jefferson City: Tribune Printing Co., 1905.
8. "Getting Ready to Build." Richmond Conservator, 15 April 1909, p. 7.
9. Johnson, Alexander. The Almshouse - Construction and Management. New York: Charities Publication Committee, 1911.
10. "Local Matters." Richmond Conservator, 7 April 1910, p. 1, and 24 March 1910, p. 1.
11. "M. W. Alnutt Contractor Here Many Years, Dies." Richmond Conservator, 9 March 1933, p. 1.
12. "Notice to Contractors." Richmond Conservator, 22 July 1909, p. 7.
13. "Notice for Superintendent for New County Poor Home and Farm." Richmond Conservator, 24 March 1910, p. 7.
14. "Occupying New Home." Richmond Conservator, 26 May 1910, p. 1.
15. "Poor House Contract Let." Richmond Conservator, 4 March 1909, p. 1.
16. "Poor House Election Saturday." Richmond Conservator, 4 March 1909, p. 1.
17. Richmond Conservator, 10 June 1909, p. 8 and 25 February 1909, p. 3.
18. "Selected Poor House Site." Richmond Conservator, 29 April 1909, p. 1.
19. "Special Election on March 6th." Richmond Conservator, 11 February 1909, p. 1.
20. "The County Court Enjoined." Richmond Conservator, 22 April 1909, p. 1.
21. "The Garver Plans Accepted." Richmond Conservator, 17 June 1909, p. 1.

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22. The Grand Jury's Report." Richmond Conservator, 18 February 1909, p. 1.
23. "W C. T. U." Richmond Conservator, 6 May 1909, p. 8.
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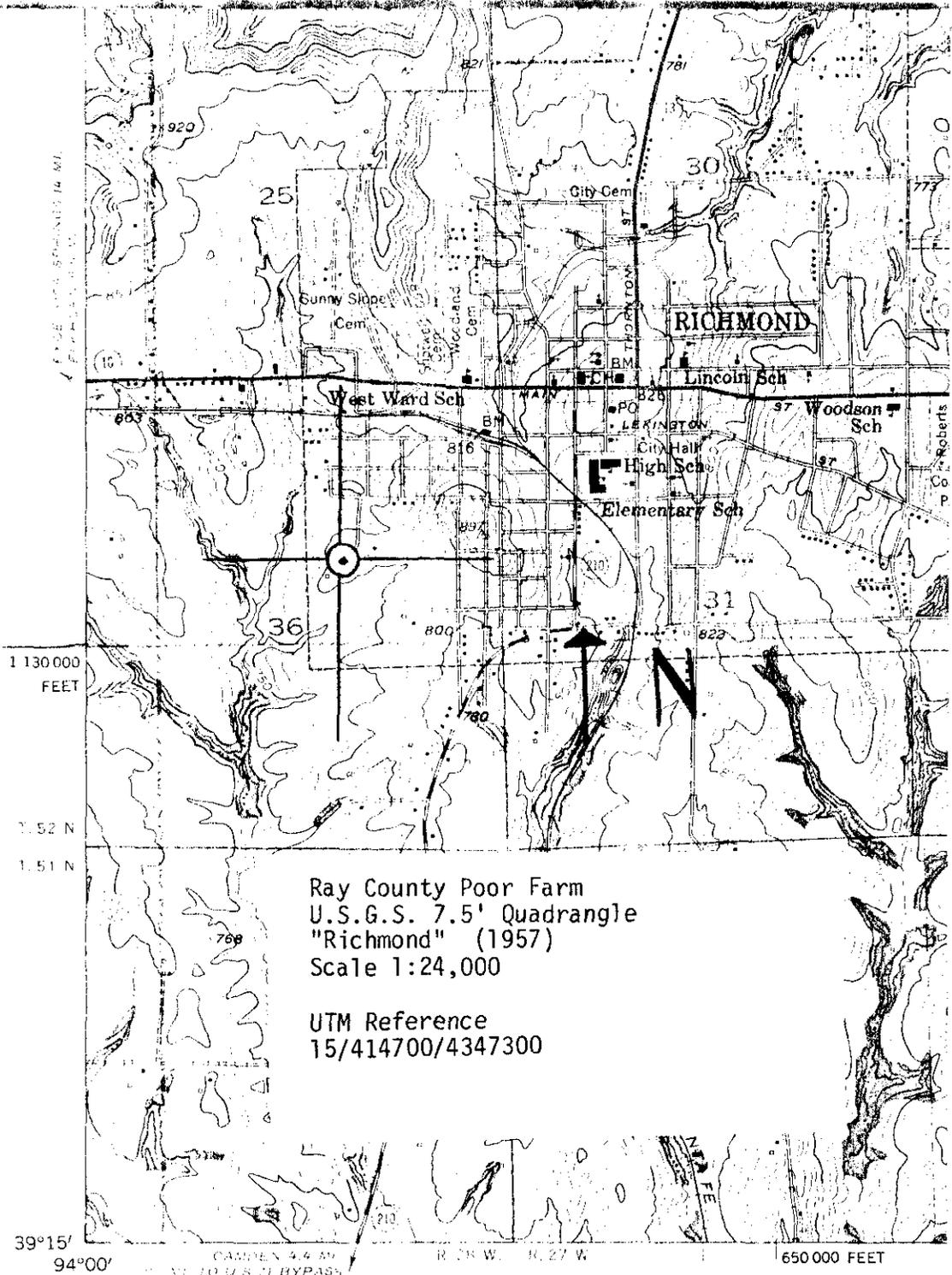
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2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

March 27, 1979
314/751-4096

Missouri 65102



Ray County Poor Farm
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
 "Richmond" (1957)
 Scale 1:24,000

UTM Reference
 15/414700/4347300

39°15' 94°00' CAMDEN 4.4 M. R. OR W. R. 27 W. 650 000 FEET

(CAMDEN)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
 Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, west zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 15. shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only
 landmark buildings are shown



APPROXIMATE MEA
 DECLINATION, 195

RAY COUNTY POOR FARM

#382

COUNTY: Ray

LOCATION: Richmond

OWNER:
ADDRESS: Ray County Court
Richmond, MO.

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: April 27, 1979

DATE SENT TO D.C.: May 23, 1979

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: May 29, 1979

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: July 10, 1979

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR): July 29, 1980
Sent United Parcel Post

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The history of the Ray County Poor Farm shows in microcosm, a country's gradual enlightenment in its treatment of the insane, indigent and elderly. Ray County's progress in this area is similar to that of most other Missouri counties. The building serves as a visible reminder of that progress. The Y-shaped building is characteristic in design to similar institutional buildings at the turn of the century. The architect was William Garver of Chillicothe and the builder was a prominent Richmond, Missouri contractor, Woodson Alnutt.

Ray County Poor Farm #1
Richmond, Missouri
photographer: Sherry Piland
October, 1978

Ray County Historical Society & Museum
West Royale Street
Richmond, Missouri 64085

North (main) facade on right; southeast
wing on left; view looking southwest.

01



Ray County Poor Farm #2
Richmond, Missouri
photographer: Sherry Piland
October, 1978

Ray County Historical Society & Museum
West Royale Street
Richmond, Missouri 64085

Detail, north portico entrance;
view looking southeast.

10



#3

Ray County Poor Farm
Richmond, Missouri
photographer: Sherry Pfland
October, 1978

Ray County Historical Society & Museum
West Royale Street
Richmond, Missouri 64085

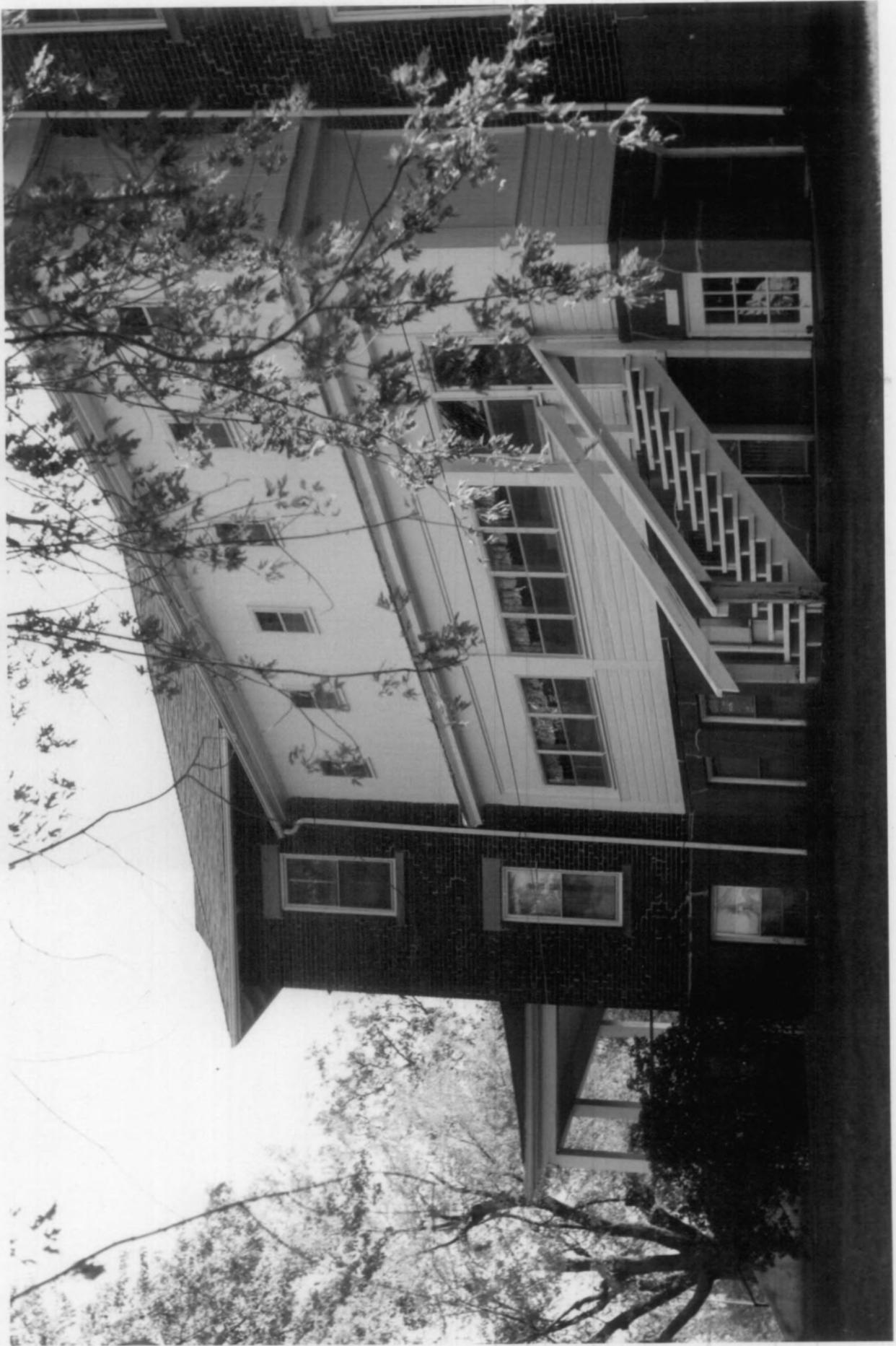
South (rear) facade; southwest wing
on left; southeast wing on right;
view looking northwest.



Ray County Poor Farm #4
Richmond, Missouri
photographer: Sherry Pfland
October, 1978

Ray County Historical Society & Museum
West Royale Street
Richmond, Missouri 64085

Southwest wing; view looking east.



Ray County Poor Farm #5
Richmond, Missouri
photographer: Sherry Piland
October, 1978

Ray County Historical Society & Museum
West Royale Street
Richmond, Missouri 64085

Southeast wing; outbuilding on
extreme left; view looking northwest.

